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STATE PASS USTR FOR JENNIFER PRESCOTT
GENEVA FOR USTR RACHEL SHUB

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TAGS: [SENV](#) [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: THAIS OPEN TO WTO ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS PROPOSAL WITH SOME
RESERVATIONS

REF: STATE 11974

¶1. Econoff spoke to Ms. Pimchanok Vonkhorporn, Director of Thailand's Department of Trade Negotiations, and delivered talking points regarding the negotiations on Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) as instructed in reftel. Ms. Pimchanok said she could only give her views on the goods portion of the proposal as she had not had the opportunity to discuss with her services staff. She said that overall Thailand was open to considering the U.S.-EC proposal but had two reservations on the goods portion.

¶2. Pimchanok said her Department is concerned that environmental goods are defined at the six-digit HTS level, which Pimchanok considered to be too broad. She also questioned what criteria were used to define an environmental good and noted that many goods defined as environmental could have other uses unrelated to any environmental goal. Although Pimchanok said she could not comment on the environmental services portion, she questioned how the U.S. plans to incorporate services with goods in the CTESS negotiations, noting that services are already covered under a separate GATT council.

¶3. Pimchanok said that the Thai delegation in Geneva would be handling the CTESS negotiations, and that while they would be open to considering the U.S.-EC position, they would not be taking a leadership role in the negotiations. Pimchanok mentioned that Thailand is considering the EGS issue in APEC and would be coordinating its position between that forum and Geneva.
JOHN